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<p>(54) Title: THE USE OF NON-ABSORBABLE SYNTHETIC SULFATED POLYSACCHARIDES TO DECREASE CHOLESTEROL ABSORPTION</p> <p>(57) Abstract This invention encompasses a method and compositions which inhibit pancreatic cholesterol esterase and triglyceride lipase and hence, lower cholesterol and triglycerides in the blood stream.</p>			

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THE USE OF NON-ABSORBABLE SYNTHETIC SULFATED POLYSACCHARIDES
TO DECREASE CHOLESTEROL ABSORPTION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a method for decreasing intestinal cholesterol absorption in man and, specifically, to inhibiting or decreasing intestinal cholesterol and fatty acid absorption by oral administration of non-absorbable synthetic sulfated polysaccharides which inhibit the pancreatic cholesterol esterase catalyzed hydrolysis of naturally occurring and ingested cholesterol esters. The invention is based upon our discovery that cholesterol esterase is a more important contributor to overall dietary cholesterol absorption than previously accepted because of our surprising finding that (1) cholesterol derived from cholesterol esters is preferentially absorbed compared to free cholesterol and (2) cholesterol esterase enhances the absorption of free cholesterol. Thus, the surprising usefulness of inhibiting cholesterol esterase has demonstrated a new need for potent (K_i less than 5 μM) inhibitors of cholesterol esterase. The invention is based on our discovery and synthesis of non-absorbable, non-degradable sulfated polysaccharides which are potent inhibitors of human pancreatic cholesterol esterase, the enzyme responsible for promoting the intestinal absorption of cholesterol and fatty acids. This invention is also based on our observation that such agents are stable and bio-available to the intestine when delivered in baked goods such as biscuits and can therefore be administered in food products. This invention is also based upon our discovery that another class of potent non-absorbable inhibitors of cholesterol esterase are antibodies to cholesterol esterase.

Atherosclerosis is the leading cause of death in the United States and high serum cholesterol concentrations are associated with increased risks of fatal artherosclerotic events, JAMA, 1985, 253: 2094 (NIH Consensus Panel Report). In 1988, a Consensus Panel of experts at the NIH stated that a major public health priority was the reduction of cholesterol, and that the goal of front line therapy should be to diminish the intestinal absorption of cholesterol, either through eating less cholesterol or through the use of drugs which act in the intestine to reduce cholesterol levels, Arch. Int. Med., 1988, 148: 36 (Consensus Full Report).

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However, no mention was made of the importance of dietary cholesterol esters or attempts to lower cholesterol by inhibiting cholesterol esterase and no drugs now exist that block cholesterol absorption from the intestine. Currently, the principal drug to act 5 within the intestine to lower cholesterol is cholestryamine, a bile acid sequestrant, "Agents to Treat Hyperlipidemia", The AMA Drug Evaluations, 6th Ed., p. 903. This agent binds bile salts within the intestinal lumen, and the resulting complex is excreted in the feces. Since bile acid is not re-absorbed, the liver uses 10 additional cholesterol to synthesize more bile acid which effectively lowers the sterol concentration in the body. Bile salt sequestrants are effective in lowering cholesterol, but they seldom reduce cholesterol by more than 15%, and they are poorly tolerated by patients. Large quantities of these ion exchange resins must be 15 ingested (15g or more), which lead to assaults on both the gustatory senses and intestinal function. Common side effects are constipation and bloating, JAMA, 1985, 253: 2095.

Cholesterol esterase is secreted by the pancreas after eating and is active in hydrolyzing ingested dietary esters of cholesterol. 20 No role for it is established in the absorption of free cholesterol, but the enzyme has been regarded as essential for absorption of cholesterol derived from cholesterol esters. If enzyme activity is removed from pancreatic juice, no cholesterol absorption from cholesterol oleate occurs. If the cholesterol esterase activity is 25 returned, absorption of cholesterol occurs, Borja et al., 1964, AM. J. Physiol 206: 223 and Vahouny and Treadwell, 1964, Proc. J. Exp. Biol. and Med. 116: 496. Since fatty acids that are absorbed come in part from cholesterol esters and they contribute to atherosclerosis, the enzyme cholesterol esterase may enhance 30 atherosclerosis in two ways.

Despite this information and the stated mission of the NIH to target strategies of diminishing cholesterol absorption from the intestine, no study of pharmacological inhibition of human pancreatic cholesterol esterase has been performed. In fact, few 35 studies have focused on the human enzyme at all, with most attention directed to other mammalian enzymes (rat, pig and cow) Calame et

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al., 1975, Arch. Biochem. Biophys. 168: 57; Van den Bosch et al., 1973, Biochem. Biophys. Acta 286: 94; Momsen et al., 1977, Biochem. Biophys. Acta 486: 103; Guy et al., 1981, Eur. J. Biochem. 117: 457; Sutton et al., 1986, Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm. 134: 386; and Borgstrom, 1988, Biochem. Biophys. Acta 962: 308. Only one study has shown that a cholesterol esterase inhibitor can decrease cholesterol absorption in animals, Fernandez et al., 1989, Biochem. Biophys. Acta 1001: 249. However, this agent is a weak inhibitor of another activity of cholesterol esterase (K_i 100 μM), involving water soluble substrates and other reports claim that it does not inhibit cholesterol esterase at all, Hadvary et al., 1987, Int. J. Obesity 11: Suppl. 2, 21. In addition, this agent is 30% absorbed and metabolized. Thus, the lack of an appreciation of the importance of cholesterol esters in contributing to the overall absorption of cholesterol from the diet has prevented the development of inhibitors of cholesterol esterase, and no focus on non-absorbable inhibitors has been achieved.

Because of our discovery of the preferential absorption of these esters and the unexpected observation that cholesterol esterase can stimulate absorption of free cholesterol, there is now an important need to develop inhibitors of human pancreatic cholesterol esterase, especially those that are potent (K_i less than 5 μM), non-absorbable and non-degradable. The pharmacology of various sulfated polysaccharides has been investigated. Cook and Cammarata, 1963, Arch. Int. Pharmacodyn. 144: 1. In particular sulfated amylopectin has been taught in U.S. Patent No. 4,150,110 as an anti-ulcer agent, but its properties as a cholesterol esterase inhibitor, which decrease absorption of cholesterol, have not been recognized. Sulfated dextran of low molecular weight has been recognized for use in the treatment of hyperlipemia and as an orally administered anticoagulant, British Patent No. 953,626. These sulfated dextrans, of low molecular weight (7000-8000, 7-8 kDa) developed for their enhanced absorption characteristics from the intestine, have been shown to reduce serum cholesterol levels at a dose of 1800 mg/day, Goro et al., 1987, J. Clin. Biochem. Nutr. 2: 55 by activating a blood enzyme, lipoprotein lipase. However,

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their weak ability to inhibit cholesterol esterase or to inhibit cholesterol absorption has not been recognized. They also have not been used as food additives. High molecular weight dextran sulfate has been excluded from development by others because of its lack of absorption and its attendant lack of activating serum lipoprotein lipase. Low molecular weight dextran sulfates because of their absorption cause changes in the integrity of the blood clotting system in man, a dangerous side effect in chronic usage, Drug In Japan (Ethical Drugs 10th ed. (1986) and see also product insert for 10 MDS Kowa Tablet, Kowa Co., Nagoya Japan.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to synthetic non-absorbable and non-degradable compounds and methods for decreasing intestinal absorption of cholesterol and fatty acid by inhibiting human pancreatic cholesterol esterase, now recognized by the present invention to be a key enzyme involved in mediating absorption, by orally administering synthetic non-absorbable sulfated polysaccharides in an amount effective for inhibiting pancreatic cholesterol esterase or by administering antibodies to cholesterol esterase.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 shows the synthesis of various sulfated derivatives of alginic acid;

5 FIGURE 2 shows the inhibition of cholesterol esterase by the various sulfated alginic acids.

FIGURE 3 shows the synthesis of chitosan sulfated at various and specific ring positions.

FIGURE 4a and b shows the inhibition by cellulose sulfate of cellular uptake of esterified and free cholesterol, respectively.

10 FIGURE 5 shows the effect of cellulose sulfate on the cholesterol oleate fed rabbit.

FIGURE 6a shows dietary effect of cholesterol and cholestryol oleate.

15 FIGURE 6b shows serum recovery of C₁₄ cholesterol from labeled cholesterol oleate chow and cholesterol chow.

FIGURE 6c shows serum recovery of tritiated cholesterol from labeled cholesterol chow and cholesterol.

FIGURE 7 shows the effect of cellulose sulfate on serum cholesterol in the cholesterol ester fed rabbit.

20 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In accordance with the present invention, we have made certain discoveries concerning approaches to inhibiting cholesterol absorption from the intestine to reduce the level of serum cholesterol and the incidence of atherosclerosis. Previously, a 25 lack of understanding of the role that cholesterol esters play in the diet has precluded development of inhibitors of cholesterol esterase. Cholesterol esters have been thought to represent only 10 to 15% of total dietary cholesterol that is absorbed, Dietschy, Intestinal Lipid Absorption in Physiopathology of the Gastrointestinal Tract, Vol. 2 p. 1170, 1981, Raven Press, N.Y. Because of the 30 generally accepted thesis then that cholesterol esters are not very important, little attempt has been made to inhibit the intestinal absorption of cholesterol esters.

35 Our surprising discovery leading to a compelling need to develop inhibitors of cholesterol esterase is that the dietary

contribution of cholesterol esters is very significant, approaching 45% in some foods. The reason for past misconceptions is that cholesterol esters are preferentially absorbed compared to free cholesterol, by more than 80%. In addition, other experiments 5 indicate that cholesterol esterase also promotes the absorption of free cholesterol. These two new observations demonstrate that cholesterol esterase contributes significantly to total cholesterol absorption. Because of this surprising conclusion, there is an important need to develop inhibitors of human pancreatic cholesterol 10 esterase. Thus, this previously ignored target for drug design is now important to investigate.

Apart from reactive chemical compounds used for non-specific covalent modification of protein groups which are unsuitable for in vivo use Lombardo et al., 1982, Biochemi. Biophys. Acta 67: 74, no 15 inhibitors of human pancreatic cholesterol esterase have been reported. The ability of tetrahydrolipstatin to inhibit the rat pancreatic cholesterol esterase catalyzed hydrolysis of cholesterol esters has not been demonstrated. This agent is a potent inhibitor 20 of the 52 kDa human pancreatic triglyceride lipase (Ki 0.1 μ M) and it has been reported that it does not inhibit cholesterol esterase, Hogan et al., 1987, Int. J. Obesity II, Suppl. 3: 35-42 and Hadvary et al. 1987, Int. J. Obsesity II, Suppl. 2: 21. Other reports claim 25 that this agent is a weak inhibitor of cholesterol esterase from rat (Ki 100 μ M), Borgstrom 1988, Biochem. Biophys. Acta 962: 308. However, assays used in this work were conducted with water soluble 30 artificial and colorimetric substrates instead of cholesterol esters. Since these are non-specific substrates, Worthington Enzyme Manual, Worthington Corp. Lilian Decker, ed. (1977), conclusions drawn are open to question. Other studies have also reported on inhibitors of pancreatic esterases using water soluble substrates, Ogawa et al. 1987, Chem. Pharm. Bull. 35: 4130; Ogawa et al., 1986 35 Chem. Pharm. Bull. 34: 1118; Ogawa et al., 1987, Chem. Pharm. Bull. 35 3276. No assay was conducted to demonstrate that inhibition of the hydrolysis of cholesterol oleate occurred. Their esterase substrates, methyl butyrate, N-acetyltyrosine ethyl ester and N-tosylarginine methyl ester are hydrolyzed by numerous pancreatic

enzymes including trypsin and triglyceride lipase. Hence, no data demonstrate their ability to inhibit cholesterol esterase catalyzed hydrolysis of cholesterol esters. These agents are all small molecular weight and absorbed, Ogawa et al., 1986, *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* 34: 1118. Another report of a cholesterol esterase inhibitor also employed a water soluble substrate, Sutton et al. 1986 *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm.* 134: 386. Work in our laboratory has shown that the reported boronic acid derivative does not inhibit the cholesterol esterase catalyzed hydrolysis of cholesterol esters. In view of recent findings that triglyceride lipase has a separate active site for hydrolysis of water soluble substrates that is remote from the lipid hydrolyzing site, Winkler et al., 1990, *Nature* 343: 771, it cannot be understood that inhibitors of water soluble substrates teach about inhibition of cholesterol ester hydrolysis.

Esterastin inhibits an intracellular form of cholesterol esterase, the lysosomal acid esterase but this enzyme is not the same as the secreted pancreatic enzyme and esterastin has not been recognized as an inhibitor of pancreatic cholesterol esterase Morin et al., 1989, *Biochem. Biophys. Acta* 1004: 139. A related study demonstrated that intra-gastric infusion of tetrahydrolipstatin at high concentrations (100 μ M) not achievable by oral administration can significantly inhibit the cholesterol absorption in the rat when the source of cholesterol is cholesterol oleate. However, these workers did not observe inhibition of triglyceride lipase even though the concentration of the agent was 1000-fold above the K_i for lipase inhibition. This agent is also 30% absorbed and metabolized, Fernandez et al., 1989, *Biochem. Biophys. Acta* 1001: 249, leading to potential toxicity. Lastly, the results are in conflict with the lack of inhibition of cholesterol ester hydrolysis noted above in vitro and thus this agent may work by a mechanism other than by enzyme inhibition.

Cholesterol esterase may be displaced from its binding site on the brush border membrane by heparin, Bosner et al., 1988, *PNAS* 85, 7438. Prior art teaches that orally administered heparin-like compounds that are naturally occurring such as Ateroid may decrease serum cholesterol by unknown mechanisms, Seethanathan et al., 1975,

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Mol. Cell. Biochem. 8: 177. Heparin, being of low molecular weight varying from 10,000 to 20,000 is also taught as an absorbable agent, Folkman et al., 1983, Science 221: 719. Heparin which is naturally occurring like heparin sulfate, is expensive, costing \$10,000 per kilogram and its binding interaction with cholesterol esterase is only 10^{-6} M. Another sulfated polysaccharide, chondroitan sulfate, which is naturally occurring, does not interact with cholesterol esterase, Bosner et al., 1988, PNAS 85, 7438. Lack of potency of the interaction of heparin with cholesterol esterase limits its use in man for chronic diseases since it is expensive and absorbed, with attendant side effects.

The present invention teaches non-obvious improvements over the prior art by demonstrating that synthetic polysaccharides with certain structural features which we define are (1) very potent inhibitors of cholesterol esterase, considerably more potent than are the naturally occurring compounds which we discovered inhibit the enzyme such as heparin (U.S. patent pending No. 168,424, filed 3/15/88), (2) non-absorbable from the intestine, (3) inexpensive (approximately \$100/kg), and (4) more continuously in contact with the intestinal enzyme by virtue of (1) and (2).

In accordance with the present invention, we have made certain discoveries concerning structural features of very large sulfated polysaccharide inhibitors (molecular weight greater than 100,000) of human pancreatic cholesterol esterase, which we have purified to homogeneity using cholesterol oleate hydrolytic activity as an assay. These include discoveries as to the synthesis and characteristics of sulfated polysaccharides that render highly specific derivatives with subnanomolar inhibitory constants. Many of these agents were prepared from non-mammalian and non-bacterial polysaccharides, which, along with their large size, makes them non-absorbable and non-degradable, and thus with fewer side effects. Related agents of smaller size can be polymerized or bound to inert polymers to render them more effective. These agents are also specific for inhibiting the cholesterol esterase (100 kDa human pancreatic enzyme) catalyzed hydrolysis of naturally occurring cholesterol esters such as cholesterol oleate, palmitate, linoleate,

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stearate and arachidonate. They do not inhibit human pancreatic triglyceride lipase (52 kDa). These agents can also displace human pancreatic cholesterol esterase from its binding site on the brush border membrane, Bosner et al., 1988, PNAS. 85,7438. Thus, these 5 sulfated polysaccharides act to reduce cholesterol esterase facilitated absorption of cholesterol by at least two mechanisms-inhibiting enzymatic cleavage of cholesterol esters and displacing enzyme from its binding site on the intestinal cell. In addition, these agents, unlike tetrahydrolipstatin, do not cause steatorrhea 10 in effective doses given to animals.

Moreover, our inhibitors of cholesterol esterase can be administered with inhibitors of triglyceride lipase. Since the bulk of fatty acid absorption occurs through the action of triglyceride lipase, its inhibition may lead to significant steatorrhea. Lower 15 degrees of lipase inhibition can decrease fatty acid absorption, a progenitor of atherosclerosis, in combination with administration of cholesterol esterase inhibitors. Thus side effects can be minimized.

Persons having the skill in the art will recognize various 20 triglyceride lipase inhibitors, such as, for example, tetrahydrolipstatin, which can be combined with the sulfated polysaccharide inhibitors of the present invention to reduce atherosclerosis.

Low molecular weight sulfated dextran (MDS-T) has been used to 25 reduce serum cholesterol levels in Japan, Goro et al., 1987, J. Clin. Biochem. Nutr. 2: 55-70. The molecular weight of this bacterial dextran is between 7-8 kDa. This low molecular weight allows the sulfated dextran to be absorbed by the intestine as demonstrated by carbon-14 labelling studies (see product insert MDS 30 Kowa, Injection and Tablet from the Kowa Company, Nagoya, Japan and see also Drugs In Japan (Ethical Drugs, 10th ed. 1986). It was developed for this property of intestinal absorption as indicated by the claim that faster decreases in serum lipids can be obtained by intravenous administration of this agent with clearance of serum 35 lipemia due to activation of plasma lipoprotein lipase (see the same references). Clearly this route of administration will not lead to

effects on inhibiting cholesterol esterase in the intestine. Absorption of MDS can lead to a variety of side effects, most notably, anticoagulant effects that must be monitored. This preparation has not been known to inhibit cholesterol esterase and it is sulfated in random and various ring positions.

Markedly increased inhibitory activities are realized from increased molecular weight of the polysaccharides and sulfation at a specific position; increased efficacy and decreased side effects are obtained by reducing absorption of the inhibitors. Increased displacement of cholesterol esterase from its binding sites on the brush border membrane is similarly achieved, Bosner et al., 1988, PNAS, 85, 7438. Accordingly, the present invention includes non-absorbable sulfated polysaccharides and those having a molecular weight greater than 20,000 (20 kDa) for use in inhibiting the activity of cholesterol esterase. The present invention is also directed to sulfated polysaccharides which are sulfated in a controlled manner at the 3-position.

Our investigations indicated that a variety of polysaccharide polymers that exist in nature can be sulfated to produce potent water soluble inhibitors of human pancreatic cholesterol esterase. Thus, we have reacted in a controlled manner in a variety of abundant, and cheap but water insoluble non-absorbable polysaccharides such as alginic acid (from seaweed, MW 240,000), pectin (from vegetable and fruit, MW 200,000), chitin and chitosan (MW 300,000 from mollusks), cellulose (from plants and trees, MW 500,000) and high molecular weight dextran (500,000 MW from bacteria to produce sulfated derivatives, all with a molecular weight greater than 100,000. These derivatives are all non-absorbable from the intestine. They are also non-degradable by humans. Sulfation renders these polysaccharides water soluble, accessible to the enzyme and thus potent inhibitors of cholesterol esterase, whereas the parent starting materials are poorly water soluble and either not inhibitory or poorly inhibitory. In addition, sulfated amylopectin is an effective inhibitor of cholesterol esterase, a novel use not taught amongst its uses as a pharmaceutical agent described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,150,110 and 4,066,829. The use of

dextran sulfate as a pharmaceutical agent is discussed in Am. J. Surgery, 1967, 13: 27. These disclosures are incorporated herein by reference.

Furthermore, agar, after extraction from algae and sulfation, 5 is an extremely potent inhibitor of human pancreatic cholesterol esterase. Agar is a linear polysaccharide composed of alternating D-galactose and 3,6-anhydro-L-galactose units. Treatment of commercial gum agar results in a gel which is soluble in water. This aqueous solution inhibits human pancreatic cholesterol esterase 10 with an IC₅₀ of 3.3×10^{-14} M (MW=300,000). Native agar, in contrast, is a much weaker inhibitor of cholesterol esterase, having an IC₅₀ of 3×10^{-8} M. This inhibition may be due to the presence of agarpectin, a sulfated form of agar which is a minor contaminant of most commercial preparations of agar.

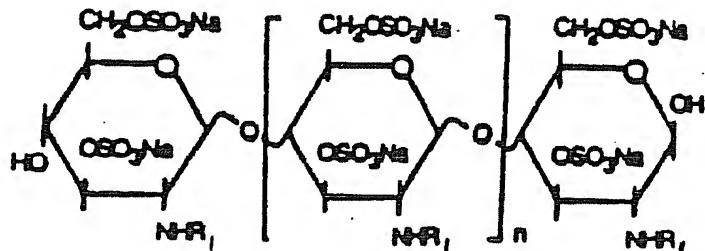
15 Not all sulfated polysaccharides inhibit cholesterol esterase. While a number of structural features can modulate the degree of inhibition, it is unexpected that the presence of a 3-sulfate markedly enhances inhibition and that not all polysaccharides inhibit cholesterol esterase, e.g., chondroitin sulfate which has 20 its 3-position already occupied in the glycosidic bond. The presence of a 3-sulfate on the sugar ring is both necessary and sufficient for producing inhibitory activity in various polysaccharides toward human pancreatic cholesterol esterase. However, the presence of a 2-sulfate decreases inhibition while a 6- 25 sulfate is unnecessary.

The efficacy of sulfated polysaccharides for decreasing absorption of cholesterol is increased by reducing the absorption of the polysaccharide from the intestine and thus prolonging its contact with the enzyme. High molecular weight sulfated polysaccharides are non-absorbable and, therefore, are necessary and sufficient to inhibit the absorption of cholesterol. The increased molecular weight also increases the inhibitory activity of the polysaccharides and sulfation increases solubility and access to enzyme to produce greater inhibition. For example, dextran sulfate 30 of molecular weight 5000 (5 kDa) exhibited an IC₅₀ of 20 nM while 35

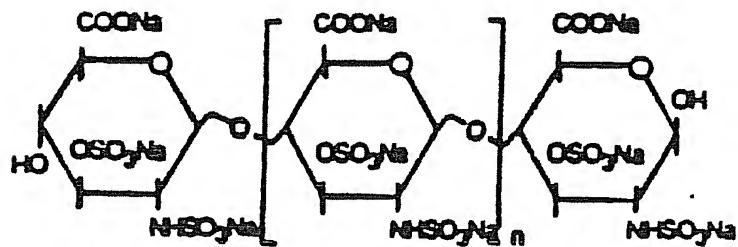
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the IC₅₀ of 500,000 molecular weight (500 kDa) dextran sulfate was 0.02nM.

Accordingly, the present invention includes compounds of the formulas:

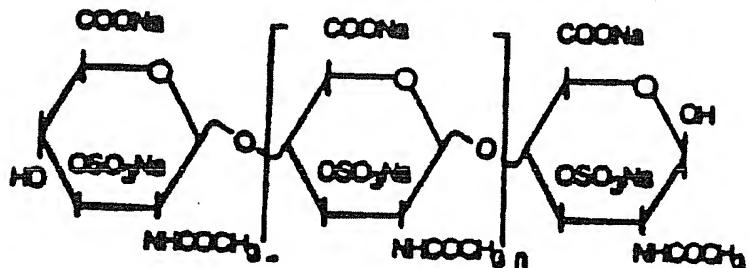


5 having a molecular weight greater than 20 kDa and wherein R₁ is -COCH₃ or -SO₃Na



having a molecular weight greater than 20 kDa

or



10 having a molecular weight greater than 20 kDa.

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In essence, our discovery leads to a practical method for converting naturally occurring polysaccharide polymers often regarded as waste to a series of highly potent, cheap, non-absorbed and non-toxic and non-degradable inhibitors of cholesterol and fatty acid absorption that can be administered as a soluble agent in small and well-tolerated quantities. Those skilled in the art will recognize that methods to disperse and/or enhance or prolong the presence in the intestine of inhibitors to increase their contact with cholesterol esterase will further decrease the absorption of cholesterol.

These sulfated polysaccharides are also inhibitors of animal pancreatic cholesterol esterase. For example, cellulose sulfate inhibits the cholesterol esterase catalyzed hydrolysis of cholesterol oleate when the source of the enzyme is from the cow (K_i 0.1 μ M), pig, rat or rabbit pancreas. Administration of cellulose sulfate to rabbits fed cholesterol oleate decreases cholesterol absorption by over 70%, while it also decreases absorption of free cholesterol as well.

These inhibitors can also be administered in combination with inhibitors of ACAT, fatty acyl cholesterol α -acyl transferase. These compounds can lower cholesterol but possess a number of toxic side effects since they are absorbed and not inert. Side effects can be lowered by reducing their dosage but maintaining efficacy in combination with inhibitors of cholesterol esterase that are not absorbed.

A person skilled in the art will recognize that various ACAT inhibitors, such as, for example, that described in Heider et al., 1983, *J. Lipid Res.* 24: 1127, which can be combined with the sulfated polysaccharides of the present invention to reduce serum levels of cholesterol.

These sulfated polysaccharide inhibitors of cholesterol esterase can be administered in pharmaceutical dosage forms such as tablets, capsules, liquids and powders. They can also be incorporated with food products such as biscuits and cookies. In essence, sulfated polysaccharides can be used as a dietary supplement to reduce cholesterol and fatty acid absorption,

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especially from foods rich in cholesterol esters where an unexpectedly large benefit would be obtained. Those skilled in the food and pharmaceutical arts will recognize a wide variety of formulations and vehicles for administering sulfated polysaccharides. Preferably, sulfated polysaccharides are administered with food or about the time of food intake and especially with foods that are rich in cholesterol esters.

Moreover, these sulfated polysaccharide inhibitors of cholesterol esterase can be administered in combination with cholesterol synthesis blockers. Patients treated with cholesterol synthesis blockers experience various toxic side effects. This toxicity can be reduced by decreasing the dose of cholesterol synthesis blockers administered to the patient. Therefore, administering the sulfated polysaccharide of the present invention in combination with drugs that are absorbed by the intestine and block the endogenous synthesis of cholesterol allows for decreased dosages of cholesterol synthesis blockers to obtain the same end result. The toxicity associated with cholesterol synthesis blockers can be effectively reduced while still reducing serum cholesterol levels.

Persons having skill in the art will recognize various cholesterol synthesis blockers, such as, for example, lovastatin, which can be combined with the sulfated polysaccharides of the present invention to reduce serum levels of cholesterol.

A related class of sulfated, non-absorbable inhibitors of cholesterol esterase is a group of sulfated ion-exchange resins which are insoluble, such as mono-S (Pharmacia), Sephadex-SP (Sigma) and S-Sepharose (Pharmacia). These agents all bind tightly to cholesterol esterase and inhibit its function.

Another class of non-absorbable inhibitors of cholesterol esterase is antibodies raised against the enzyme and administered orally. These antibodies are stable at gastric pH and by binding to cholesterol esterase they produce a decrease in the amount of absorbed cholesterol by inhibiting the enzyme. A person skilled in the art will recognize that various methods of production of such antibodies exist, including various animals such as the cow that

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secrete antibodies in the milk and various cells that produce monoclonal antibodies. In addition, various formulations of such antibodies can be prepared to enhance their contact with cholesterol esterase in the intestine.

5 The invention is illustrated further by the following examples which are not to be construed as limiting the invention in scope or spirit to the specific procedures described in them.

EXAMPLE 1

10 Alginic acid from Macrocystis pyrifera (kelp) was dissolved in water at a concentration of 1 mg/ml. This stock solution was used to prepare various polysaccharide concentrations down to 10^{-5} mg/ml. Human pancreatic cholesterol esterase was purified as described by Bosner et al., Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci., 85, 7438 (1988). To measure cholesterol esterase inhibition by alginic acid, 15 50 μ l of cholesterol esterase (10 μ g/ml), 75 μ l of phosphatidylcholine vesicles containing cholestrylyl 14 C-oleate (1 mM 2,000 CPM/nmole), 25 μ l of 100 mM taurocholate, 120 μ l of 150 mM Tris, pH 7.5 and 30 μ l of test alginic acid solution were incubated at 37°C for fifteen minutes. The assay was quenched by placing the 20 reaction vessels in a 4°C ice bath and by adding 0.6 ml of 0.3 N NaOH and 3 ml of benzene/chloroform/methanol (1.0/1.2/0.5). The quenched reactions were vortexed for 30 seconds, centrifuged at 3,000 g for 15 minutes and 1 ml of the upper aqueous phase was added to 7 ml of Aquasol-2 (DuPont) with 0.025 ml of 6 N HCl. These mixtures were 25 vortexed for one minute and counted for 14 C-oleate. The counts were compared to a sample which contained cholesterol esterase but no alginic acid to determine the percentage of inhibition.

Following this assay procedure, alginic acid was tested for inhibition from 10^{-1} mg/ml to 10^{-4} mg/ml. As shown in Table 1, this 30 polysaccharide had an IC_{50} of 4 μ g/ml or 20 nM (assuming a molecular weight 240 kDa).

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EXAMPLE 2

Sulfation of alginic acid markedly enhances its inhibitory ability, as shown by preparing various sulfated derivatives (Figure 1) and testing them as cholesterol esterase inhibitors.

5 Compound 2

Sodium alginate (150 mg) was treated with glacial acetic acid (5 cc) for two hours at room temperature, filtered and resuspended in N,N-dimethylformamide (5 ml). To the stirred solution, sulfur trioxide-pyridine complex (1.5 g) was added over 30 minutes at room 10 temperature and the resulting mixture was stirred overnight (16 hr). Dry pyridine (5 ml) was then added and the sulfated alginic acid was precipitated with 100 ml of acetone-methanol (9:1) mixture. The precipitate was dissolved in H₂O (50 ml) and the pH of the solution was adjusted to pH 8 with 1 N NaOH. Re-precipitation with acetone-methanol (9:1) mixture (~200 ml) yielded the sodium salt of sulfated alginic acid. This compound was tested for cholesterol esterase inhibition as described above and it had an IC₅₀ of 15 0.25 µg/ml or 1.0 nM (Table 1 and Figure 2).

Compound 5

20 Sodium alginate (1 g) was dissolved in 100 cc of deionized water, and 60 ml of 0.1 M bromine solution were added with stirring. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 hr, and subsequently, the pH of the solution was adjusted to 8.0 with 1 N NaOH. After dialysis against water (6 liters x 4) for 48 hours using 3,500 25 M.W. cut-off membrane, the solution was lyophilized to give 810 mg of oxidation product (Compound 3; Table 1).

To 575 mg of Compound 3 in water, 8 g of ammonium acetate and 30 8 g of sodium cyanoborohydride were added with stirring. The pH of the mixture was adjusted to 6.0 with 0.1N HCl and stirring was continued at 40°C for 48 hr. After cooling the mixture to room temperature, the pH of the solution was adjusted to 4.0 with 1 N HCl, and stirring was continued at room temperature for an additional 2 hrs. The reductive amination product was precipitated by adding absolute ethyl alcohol. This precipitate was dissolved in 35 water (200 cc) and the pH was adjusted to 9 with 2 N NaOH solution.

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Treatment of this solution with 500 cc of ethyl alcohol-acetone (1:1) yielded a gelatin-type material which was collected by centrifugation. The resulting material was washed several times with absolute alcohol and acetone and lyophilized to yield 532 mg of 5 the reduction product (Compound 4; Table 1).

Sulfation of Compound 4 was performed using sulfur trioxide-pyridine complex by the method described earlier (see Compound 2). This sulfated alginic acid (Compound 5; Table 1) was tested for cholesterol esterase inhibition, and it had an IC_{50} of 0.025 μ g/ml 10 or 0.10 nM (Table 1 and Figure 2).

Compound 6

Oxidized alginic acid (500 mg; Compound 3) was treated with 15 glacial acetic acid (25 ml) for 2 hr, the residue was suspended in DMF (25 ml) and 5 g of sulfur trioxide-pyridine complex were added over 30 min while the DMF solution stirred at 4°C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and it was stirred for an additional 24 hr. Pyridine (25 ml) was added to the reaction mixture and the sulfated product was precipitated by adding acetone:methanol (9:1) to the solvent mixture (500 cc). The residue 20 was dissolved in 60 ml of water and it was converted to the sodium salt by adjusting the pH of the solution to 8 with 1 N NaOH solution. The solution was dialyzed against water (4 liters x 6) using 3,500 M.W. cut-off membrane over 48 hr and lyophilized to yield 520 mg of sulfated alginic acid (Compound 6; Table 1 and 25 Figure 2). This compound inhibited cholesterol esterase with an IC_{50} of .06 μ g/ml or 0.025 nM.

Compound 7

The sulfated alginic acid (Compound 7; Table 1) was prepared 30 as described (Larm, O., Larsson, K., Scholander, E., Anderson, L.G., Holmes, E. and Soderstrom, G., 1979, Carbohydrate Research 73:332. This compound inhibited cholesterol esterase with an IC_{50} of 0.10 μ g/ml or 0.42 nM.

All the sulfated derivatives of alginic acid are superior 35 inhibitors when compared to the native polysaccharide. These results are tabulated below and show that sulfation enhances inhibition from 20 to 200-fold:

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TABLE 1

	Sample	IC ₅₀ (nM)	Enhancement Factor
5			
	Alginic Acid	20.0	1.0
	Compound 2	1.0	20.0
	Compound 5	0.10	200.0
10	Compound 6	0.25	80.0
	Compound 7	0.42	48.0

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EXAMPLE 3

Other common polysaccharides, when sulfated, also are potent inhibitors of cholesterol esterase.

Sulfated pectin was prepared by treating pectin (2 g) with 5 glacial acetic acid, the polysaccharide was resuspended in N,N-dimethylformamide (25 ml), and the stirred suspension was cooled to 0°C with an ice bath. Sulfur trioxide-pyridine complex (10 g, Aldrich) was added, and the temperature of the solution was allowed to reach room temperature. After stirring for an additional 3 hr, 10 pyridine (20 ml) was added and the sulfated polysaccharide was precipitated with 95% ethyl alcohol (~300 ml). The precipitate was dissolved in water and the pH was adjusted to 7.5 with 1 N sodium hydroxide. Re-precipitation with 95% ethanol gave 1.8 g of the sodium salt of pectin sulfate. (Found: C, 34.53; H, 4.54; O, 47.21; 15 S, 0.77; Na, 8.31).

This compound was tested for cholesterol esterase inhibition and it had an IC_{50} of 0.6 μ g/ml or 3.0 nM (assuming a molecular weight of 200 kDa). Importantly, native, unsulfated pectin does not inhibit cholesterol esterase, demonstrating the importance of 20 sulfation for effective inhibition.

Native pectin occurs naturally as the partial methyl ester of a(1 \rightarrow 4) linked D-polygalacturonate sequences. The methyl ester was converted to the free acid by treatment with pectinesterase. Specifically, 1 g of pectin was dissolved in 100 ml of 0.1 M NaCl. 25 The pH was adjusted to 7.5 and pectinesterase (1.4 mg, 250 Units, Sigma) was added. The pH of the reaction mixture was maintained at 7.5 with 0.1 N sodium hydroxide solution. When there was no further change in pH, about 2 hr., the solution was transferred to dialysis tubing and dialyzed against water overnight (4 liters x 4). 30 Lyophilization of the dialyzed solution gave 820 mg of hydrolyzed pectin. The methyl ester cleaved product was sulfated in a similar manner as described above for native pectin. This sulfated pectin inhibited cholesterol esterase with an IC_{50} of .04 μ g/ml or 0.2 nM.

Chitin, another naturally occurring polysaccharide, also 35 contains potential sites for sulfation. Thus, 300 mg of chitin were treated with 5 ml of glacial acetic acid for 2 hr. at room tempera-

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ture, and the insoluble chitin collected and resuspended in 10 ml of DMF. Sulfur trioxide-pyridine complex (3 g) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred. After 80 hr., 5 ml of pyridine were added and the solution stirred for an additional 30 min. Sulfated chitin was precipitated by adding 95% ethyl alcohol (100 ml), and the solid was suspended in 100 cc of water and the pH of the solution was adjusted to 7.5. The chitin solution was then dialyzed against water for 48 hr. The solution was filtered and the clear filtrate was lyophilized to yield 48 mg of sulfated chitin. Chitin sulfate inhibited human cholesterol esterase with an IC_{50} of 0.3 nM (assuming a molecular weight of 300 kDa).

10 Since chitin is so insoluble, chitosan was used as starting material to increase the amount of sulfated material. Chitosan 15 (1 g) was treated with 20 ml of glacial acetic acid for 2 hr at room temperature, and the residue was suspended in 25 ml of N,N-dimethyl-formamide. To this stirred solution, sulfur trioxide-pyridine complex (10 g) was added at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred for 2 hr. and kept at room temperature for 72 hr. 20 Pyridine (20 ml) was added and the sulfated chitosan was precipitated with acetone-methanol (9:1). It was then dissolved in 200 ml of water and the pH of the solution adjusted to 7.5 with 2 N sodium hydroxide solution. Re-precipitation with 95% ethyl alcohol gave the sodium salt of chitosan sulfate, which was redissolved in 25 200 ml of water. The polysaccharide solution was dialyzed against water (6 liters x 4) for 48 hr and then lyophilized to give 1.12 g of the sodium salt of chitosan sulfate. When tested as an inhibitor of cholesterol esterase, it gave an IC_{50} of 0.3 nM.

30 Other commercially available, sulfated polysaccharides were also tested for inhibitory ability. Thus, cellulose sulfate (M.W. = 500 kDa) had an IC_{50} of .02 nM and dextran sulfate (M.W. 500,000) also had an IC_{50} of .02 nM. Low molecular weight dextran sulfate (M.W. 5,000) had a markedly weakened K_i of 20 nM. The IC_{50} 's for all these sulfated compounds are summarized below in Table 2:

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TABLE 2

Compound	IC ₅₀ (nM)
Pectin Sulfate	3.0
Pectin (Hydrolyzed) Sulfate	0.2
Chitin Sulfate	0.16
Chitosan Sulfate	0.16
Cellulose Sulfate	0.02
Dextran Sulfate ^a	0.02
Dextran Sulfate ^b	20.0

^a Dextran Sulfate of molecular weight 500,000

^b Dextran Sulfate of molecular weight 5000.

In addition, amylopectin sulfate, prepared as described below, acts as an inhibitor of cholesterol esterase.

Into a jacketed reaction vessel equipped with means for mechanical agitation and containing 1,100 parts of softened water (deionized, distilled, or tap water may also be used) 275 parts of amylopectin fractionated from potato starch was added, with stirring. After 30 minutes agitation, the pH was adjusted to about 10.5 - 11.0 with portions of a 25%, by weight, aqueous NaOH solution. The temperature was 80°F.

Six hundred and twenty parts of a trimethylamine-sulfur trioxide complex were slowly added over a period of one and a half hours. Simultaneously, more of the 25% NaOH solution was introduced by means of a programmed addition designed to maintain the pH at 11.0. This programmed addition was maintained throughout the entire reaction.

After all the trimethylamine-sulfur trioxide addition product was added, the vessel was closed and a vacuum of 12" water was applied in order to initiate the removal of some of the trimethylamine which was being formed during the reaction. At the same time the temperature was slowly raised to 122° F over a period

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of one and a half hours with continuing programmed additions of caustic. After 11 hours at 122° F, with caustic additions programmed to keep the pH at 11.0, the reaction was completed.

5 The vacuum was then raised to 27" mercury and the trimethylamine was removed by stripping while the pH was maintained at 11 through the programmed addition of the 25% NaOH solution. After the bulk of the trimethylamine was removed, water stripping was started using 1150 parts of water while keeping the pH at about 11.

10 The free trimethylamine content was reduced to below 100 p.p.m. after which the vacuum was removed and the solids adjusted to a level of 25%, by weight, and the pH to 10.8 - 11.0. The resulting solution was then dialyzed continuously against soft water, using parchment as a membrane to a salt content of 5% Na₂SO₄ based on the 15 starch solids.

The pH at this stage was about 8. The product was then spray dried using an inlet temperature of 450° F, and an outlet temperature of 210° F.

20 The resulting spray dried amylopectin sulfate was in the form of a white powder and entirely devoid of any odor or taste resulting from the presence of any residual traces of unreacted trimethylamine.

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EXAMPLE 4

The sulfated polysaccharides described here also inhibit the hydrolysis of triolein by the human 100 kDa cholesterol esterase. (The same assay procedure was used as described in Part I, only triolein was used instead of cholestryloleate.) As shown in the table below, the IC₅₀ for inhibition of triolein hydrolysis is nearly the same as that for cholestryloleate hydrolysis. These data indicate that these compounds are also useful agents for blocking the uptake of fats, as well as the uptake of cholesterol are summarized in Table 3.

TABLE 3

	Compound	IC ₅₀ (nM)	
		Triolein	Cholestryloleate
15	Alginic Acid	42.0	20.0
	Compound 2	3.3	1.0
	Compound 5	0.25	0.10
20	Compound 6	0.83	0.25
	Compound 7	0.42	0.42
	Pectin Sulfate	2.5	3.0
	Pectin (Hydrolyzed Sulfate)	0.25	0.2
	Chitin Sulfate	0.35	0.3
25	Chitosan Sulfate	0.85	0.3
	Cellulose Sulfate	0.06	0.02
	Dextran Sulfate*	0.08	0.02

*MW 500,000

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EXAMPLE 5

The sulfated polysaccharides described here retain their inhibitory activity for prolonged periods at elevated temperatures. This property allows them to be stable under baking conditions and provides a convenient vehicle for their administration. For example, 109 mg of cellulose sulfate were added to 198 gm (7 oz) of corn muffin mix (Gold Medal¹), and the solid ingredients were thoroughly mixed together. After the addition of one egg and one-third cup milk, the muffin mix was stirred fifteen times. The mixture was poured into nine muffin tins and baked for fifteen minutes in a 400° oven. The next day one muffin was broken up, added to 100 ml of water and allowed to stand for fifteen minutes. The mixture was centrifuged and the clear supernatant was assayed for the presence of cholesterol esterase inhibition. The IC₅₀ of this solution was achieved when this solution was diluted 10³ - 10⁴ times. These data indicate that the inhibitor is stable under baking conditions and that it can be released into solution from baked goods.

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EXAMPLE 6

Sulfated agar was prepared from commercial agar by first suspending 2g of commercial agar in N, N-dimethylformamide (25 ml), and cooling the stirred suspension to 0°C with an ice bath. Sulfur 5 trioxide-pyridine complex (10 g, Aldrich) was added, and the temperature of the solution was allowed to reach room temperature. After stirring for an additional 3 hr, pyridine (20 ml) was added and the sulfated polysaccharide was precipitated with 95% ethyl alcohol (~300 ml). The precipitate was dissolved in water and the 10 pH was adjusted to 7.5 with 1 N sodium hydroxide. Reprecipitation with 95% ethyl alcohol gave sulfated agar.

Human pancreatic cholesterol esterase was purified as described by Bosner et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 85, 7438 (1988). To measure pancreatic cholesterol esterase inhibition by sulfated 15 agar, 50 μ l of pancreatic cholesterol esterase (10 μ g/ml), 75 μ l of phosphatidylcholine vesicles containing cholesteryl 14 C-oleate (1 mM 2,000 CPM/nmole), 25 μ l of 100 mM taurocholate, 120 μ l of 150 mM Tris, pH 7.5 and 30 μ l of test sulfated agar solution were incubated at 37°C for fifteen minutes. The assay was quenched by placing the 20 reaction vessels in a 4°C ice bath and by adding 0.6 ml of 0.3 N NaOH and 3 ml of benzene/chloroform/methanol (1.0/1.2/0.5). The quenched reactions were vortexed for 30 seconds, centrifuged at 3,000 g for 15 minutes and 1 ml of the upper aqueous phase was added to 7 ml of Aquasol-2 (DuPont) with 0.025 ml of 6 N HCl. These mixtures were 25 vortexed for one minute and counted for 14 C-oleate. The counts were compared to a sample which contained cholesterol esterase but no sulfated agar to determine the percentage of inhibition.

Following this assay procedure, sulfated agar was determined to have an IC₅₀ toward human pancreatic cholesterol esterase of 3.3 30 $\times 10^{-11}$ M, or 0.033 nM (based on a molecular weight of 300 kDa).

The IC₅₀ was determined for native (unsulfated) agar to be 3 \times 10⁻⁸M, or 30 nM. This inhibition may be due to minor (< 0.1%) contamination of agar by agarpectin, a sulfated form of agar found in most commercial preparations of agar.

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EXAMPLE 7

The structural basis for the potent inhibition of human pancreatic cholesterol esterase exhibited by chitosan (0.3 nM, Example III) was determined by preparing a number of chitosan derivatives sulfated at various positions on the polysaccharide ring (Figure 3). Five different compounds were synthesized using the strategy outlined in Table 4, and their inhibitory activity was determined in the assay described in Example 6, above. The structure activity relationships for the five sulfated polysaccharides is summarized below.

As the data demonstrates, the presence of 3-sulfate is both necessary and sufficient to produce inhibitory activity by these polysaccharides toward human pancreatic cholesterol esterase. However, sulfation at the 2-position decrease activity while 6-sulfation is unnecessary.

TABLE 4

20	COMPOUND	<u>SULFATION POSITION</u>			IC_{50} nM
		2 ^a	3 ^b	6 ^b	
	Ia	+	+	+	0.3
	Ib	-	+	+	0.3
25	II	+	+	-	1.6
	III	+	-	-	N.I.
	IV	-	+	-	0.3

^a Position 2 is N-sulfation;

^b positions 3 & 6 are O-sulfation.

N. I. = Not Inhibitory

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EXAMPLE 8

Colonic adenocarcinoma cells (CaCo-2, American Type Culture Collection) were grown to a density of 2×10^6 cells on 25 mM coverslips in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium containing 10% (v/v) lipoprotein depleted serum. The coverslips were washed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and transferred to 35 mm wells containing 1.0 ml PBS, 2 mM taurocholate and 1% bovine serum albumin. The cells were then incubated at 37°C with .01 uCi of ^3H cholesterol and 0.01 uCi of ^{14}C -cholesteryl oleate, which were embedded in phosphatidylcholine vesicles. The control wells received no cholesterol esterase while the experimental set received bovine 72 kDa cholesterol esterase. At various incubation times the coverslips were removed, washed three times with PBS, and the cells were collected by scraping and washing with 250 mM tris glycine buffer (pH 8.8) containing 0.1% SDS. The cells were collected by centrifugation and the pellet was heated at 100°C for five minutes and then sonicated for ten minutes. The uptake of cholesterol, either from free sterol or from cholesteryl oleate, was determined by scintillation counting for ^3H or ^{14}C , respectively. As shown in Figure 4, cholesterol esterase catalyzed the uptake of cholesterol derived from cholesteryl oleate (Figure 4a), and it also catalyzed the uptake of free cholesterol (Figure 4b). In both instances, cellulose sulfate markedly inhibits cholesterol uptake by the cells (Figure 4a and b, squares).

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EXAMPLE 9

Inhibition of cholesterol uptake from either free cholesterol or from cholestryol oleate was examined in vivo using cellulose sulfate. A rabbit which had been fed cholestryol oleate for six weeks was fasted for twelve hours and a nasogastric tube was inserted into its stomach. Five ml of a cellulose sulfate solution (100 mg/ml) in Tris buffer were added followed by 10 ml of 20 uCi of ³H cholesterol incorporated in phosphatidylcholine vesicles and 10 ml of 20 uCi of ¹⁴C cholestryol oleate. The nasogastric tube was then flushed with an additional 5 ml of cellulose sulfate solution (100 mg/ml). After the tube was removed, blood was drawn from an ear vein as a function of time and 100 μ l of plasma was counted for ¹⁴C and ³H. As shown, cellulose sulfate inhibited by 85% the uptake of either free cholesterol or cholesterol derived from cholestryol oleate (Figure 5).

EXAMPLE 10

Nine New Zealand White rabbits (2-2.5 kg) were maintained on regular rabbit chow and their serum cholesterol was found to vary from 21 to 66 mg/dl when measured using the enzymatic colorometric method (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Limited). The rabbits were then split into three groups of three each. One group was fed regular chow, the second group was fed cholesterol chow (5 gm/kg, 0.5% in sterol) and the third was fed cholestryol oleate chow (8.66 gm/kg, 0.5% in sterol). At one week intervals, blood (1.0 - 1.5 ml) was drawn from an ear vein and the serum cholesterol in 10 microliter samples was determined in duplicate. As shown in figure 6a, rabbits on regular chow showed no change in serum cholesterol over the five week experimental period. On the other hand, the cholesterol fed rabbits experienced a 35-fold increase in their serum cholesterol level over the same time period. This increase was even more marked (70-fold) in those rabbits fed cholestryol oleate. These data indicate that cholesterol derived from cholesterol ester is preferentially absorbed over free cholesterol (Figure 6a).

This preferential absorption was demonstrated in a second way. One rabbit from each of the three groups described above was fasted

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for twelve hours. A nasogastric tube was inserted into the test rabbit and 10 ml of Tris buffer containing a suspension of 20 uCi of ³H-cholesterol incorporated in phosphatidylcholine vesicles were added. This was immediately followed by 10 ml of 20 uCi of ¹⁴C-cholesteryl oleate administered in the same way. Blood was then drawn from an ear vein and 100 μ l of plasma was counted for ¹⁴C and ³H. As shown, either radiolabeled cholesteryl oleate (Figure 6b) or radiolabeled cholesterol (Figure 6c) is preferentially absorbed in rabbits that have been maintained on a cholesteryl oleate diet.

10

EXAMPLE 11

A New Zealand White rabbit was maintained on regular rabbit chow. Two days before the experiment began the animal was fed chow to which cellulose sulfate had been added to give a final concentration of 0.5%. After 12 hrs. on regular chow then, the 15 experiment began with the administration of ¹⁴C-cholesteryl oleate as described above. The animal was then allowed to eat and drink regular chow in a normal manner. Blood samples were withdrawn from an ear vein and the radiolabeled cholesterol measured by scintillation counting. As shown in Figure 7, throughout the course 20 of the experiment, the level of serum cholesterol was reduced by 50% in the rabbit fed cellulose sulfate when compared to that of the control rabbit. Moreover, cholesterol did not appear in the serum of the experimental animal until four hours after the administration of the label. In contrast, in the control animal, label appears 25 only two hours after its administration.

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EXAMPLE 12

Commercially available bovine pancreatic cholesterol esterase in 10 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris pH 7.2, was applied to heparin-Sepharose (1.5 x 10 cm) equilibrated with the same buffer. The resin was developed further by washing with 100 mM Tris, pH 7.2, and little or no activity was found in any of these preliminary steps, even though virtually all of the applied protein was eluted. When the absorbance at 280 nm returned to zero, the resin was washed with 20 mM sodium taurocholate containing enough sodium chloride to give the same conductivity as that of the previous buffer. All the activity was eluted in several fractions. This single purification step typically provides a 60 to 80% yield with a 50- to 100-fold purification and gives a single band at 67 kDa on SDS-PAGE.

Five hundred micrograms of this homogeneous 67 kDa protein were emulsified in Freund's complete adjuvant and injected subcutaneously into a New Zealand White rabbit. Twenty-one days later the rabbit was boosted with intraperitoneal injections of 250 µg protein dissolved in 1 ml of 10 mM sodium phosphate, 150 mM NaCl, pH 7.1. The rabbits were bled 10 days later, and the presence of anti-cholesterol IgG was determined on Ouchterlony plates.

Bovine 72 kDa cholesterol esterase was assayed in the presence of this antibody. In a typical assay, 75 µl of cholesteryl [¹⁴C]-oleate vesicles, 25 µl of diluted antibody, 25 µl of 100 mM taurocholate, 175 µl of 150 mM Tris, pH 7.5 were mixed in a test tube and hydrolysis was initiated by adding 25 µl of enzyme to the reaction mixture at 37°C. After five minutes, the reaction was quenched by addition of 600 µl of 0.3 N NaOH and 3 ml of benzene:methanol:chloroform (1:1.2:0.5). After mixing, the samples were centrifuged and 1 ml of the clear aqueous phase was removed and counted for radioactivity. The control activity was determined in the absence of added antibody. Following this protocol, serum containing antibody to the 67 kDa cholesterol esterase was found to be a potent inhibitor of the bovine 72 kDa enzyme. Thus, diluting the serum 10⁵ times produced 50% inhibition.

From the foregoing, it will be appreciated that, although specific embodiments of the invention have been described herein for

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purposes of illustration, various modifications may be made without deviating from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not limited except as by the appended claims.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for inhibiting the intestinal absorption of cholesterol comprising administering orally a non-absorbable inhibitor of cholesterol esterase.

5 2. A method according to claim 1 for decreasing the absorption of cholesterol comprising orally administering an effective amount of a non-absorbable synthetic sulfated polysaccharide to inhibit pancreatic cholesterol esterase.

10 3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the non-absorbable polysaccharide is a 3-sulfated non-absorbable polysaccharide.

15 4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the 3-sulfated non-absorbable polysaccharide is 3-sulfated alginic acid, pectin, amylopectin, chitin, dextran, cellulose, agar or chitosan.

5. A method for decreasing cholesterol absorption comprising orally administering an effective amount of sulfated cellulose, agar, amylopectin, chitin, chitosan, pectin or alginic acid.

20 6. A method for decreasing cholesterol absorption comprising orally administering an effective amount of dextran sulfate (M.W. greater than 200,000).

25 7. A method for inhibiting pancreatic cholesterol esterase comprising contacting the pancreatic cholesterol esterase with an effective inhibitory amount of a synthetic non-absorbable sulfated polysaccharide having a molecular weight greater than 20 kDa.

8. An ingestible food product containing an effective amount of a non-absorbable synthetic cholesterol esterase inhibitor.

30 9. An ingestible food product according to claim 8 containing an effective amount of a synthetic non-absorbable 3-sulfated polysaccharide having a molecular weight greater than 20 kDa to inhibit pancreatic cholesterol esterase in the alimentary tract.

10. An ingestible food product according to claim 8, wherein the synthetic 3-sulfated non-absorbable polysaccharide is 3-sulfated alginic acid, pectin, amylopectin, chitin, dextran, cellulose, agar or chitosan.

5 11. A method for decreasing cholesterol absorption comprising ingesting the food product of claim 9.

10 12. An ingestible food product containing effective amount of sulfated cellulose, pectin, alginic acid, agar, chitin, chitosan, amylopectin, or dextran to inhibit pancreatic cholesterol esterase in the alimentary tract.

15 13. A method of decreasing serum cholesterol levels comprising administering an effective amount of a synthetic non-absorbable sulfated polysaccharide in combination with an effective amount of absorbed cholesterol synthesis blocker.

14. A method of decreasing serum cholesterol levels comprising administering an effective amount of a synthetic non-absorbable sulfated polysaccharide in combination with an effective amount of triglyceride lipase inhibitor.

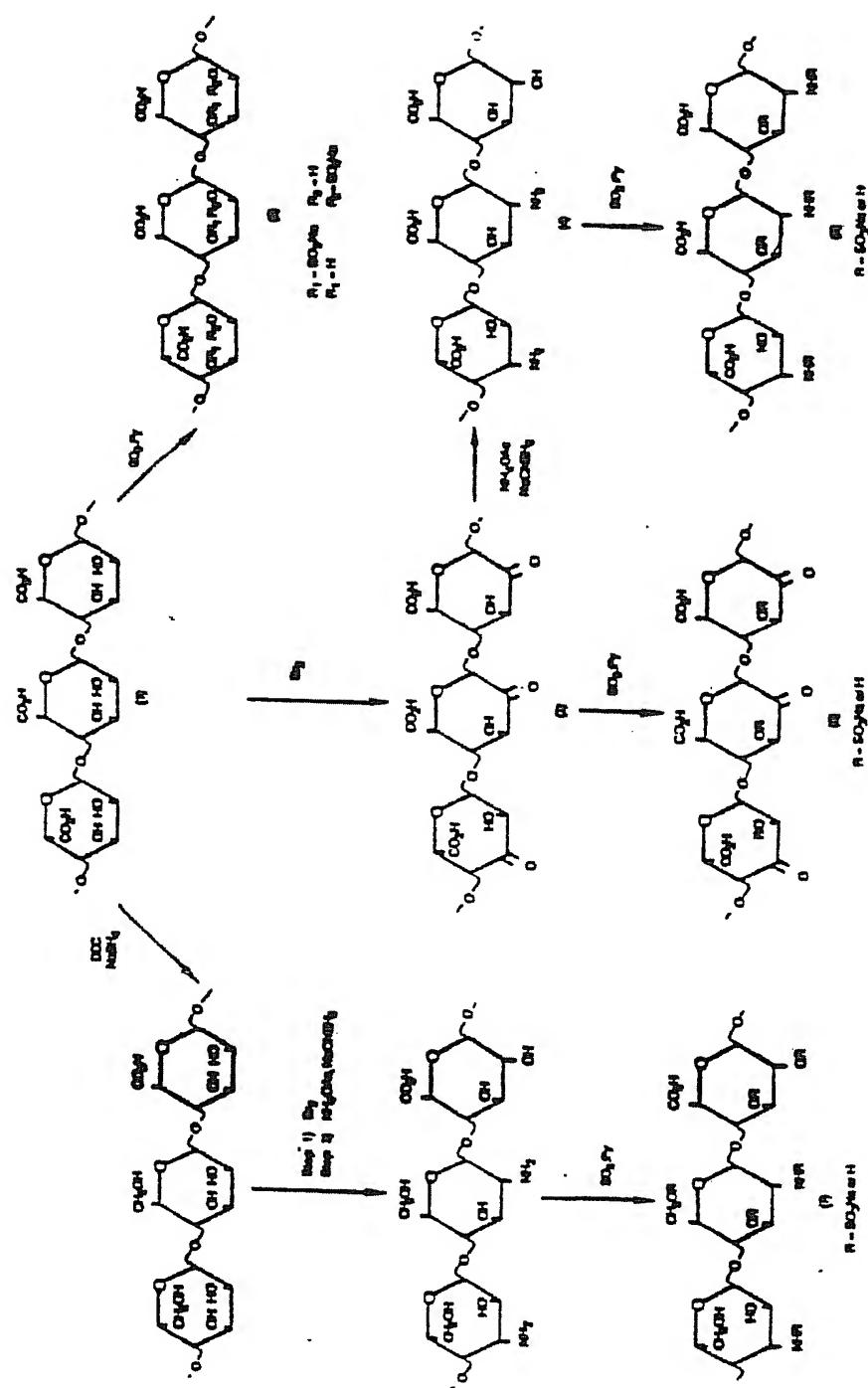
20 15. A method of decreasing serum cholesterol levels comprising administering an effective amount of a synthetic non-absorbable sulfated polysaccharide in combination with an effective amount of a fatty acyl cholesterol O-acyl transferase inhibitor.

25 16. A method according to claim 1 for decreasing the absorption of cholesterol comprising orally administering an effective amount of an antibody directed against cholesterol esterase.

17. A method according to claim 1 for decreasing the absorption of cholesterol comprising orally administering an effective amount of a sulfated ion-exchange resin.

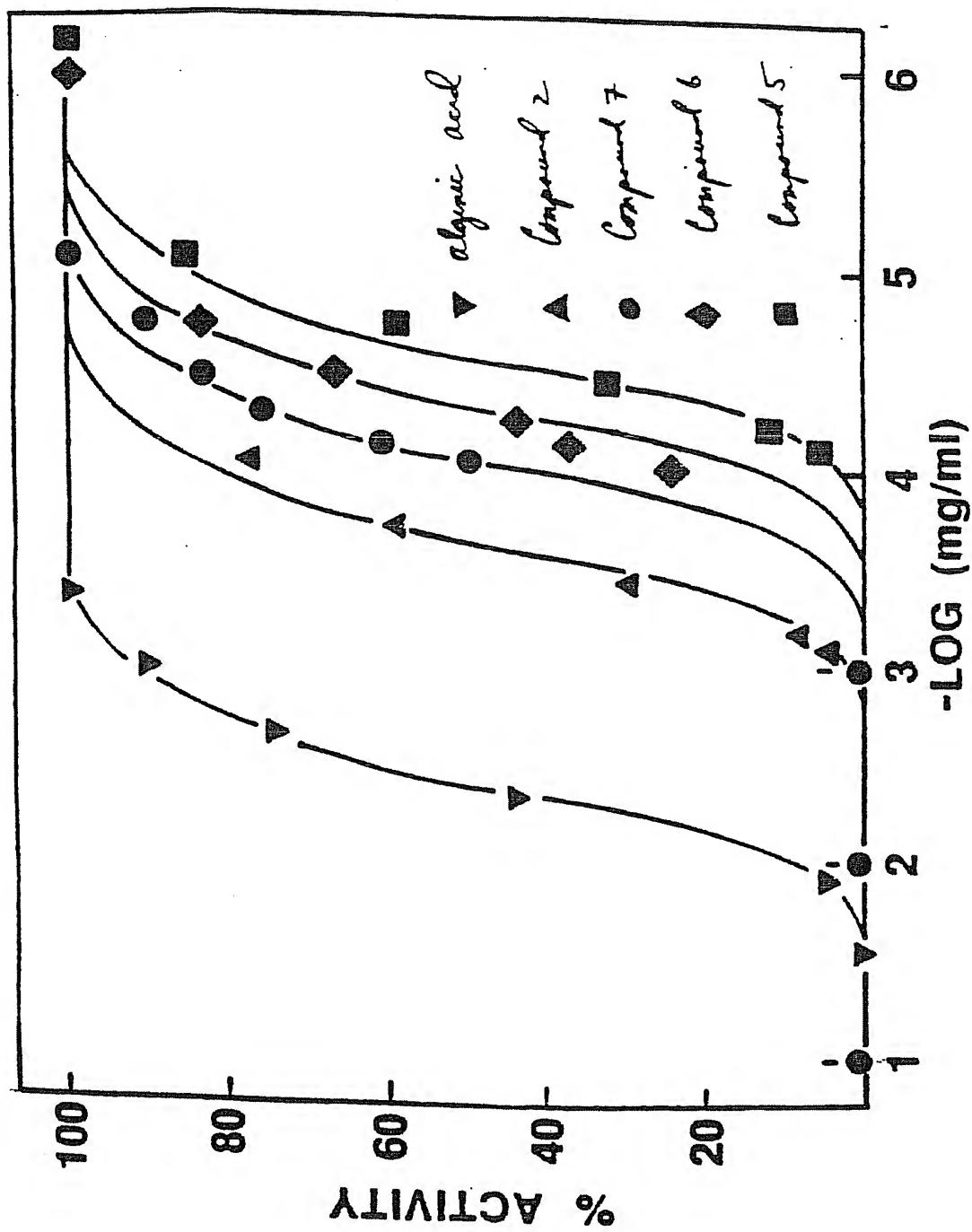
30 18. A method for decreasing fatty acid absorption comprising orally administering an effective amount of sulfated cellulose, agar, amylopectin, chitin, chitosan, pectin or alginic acid.

FIGURE 1



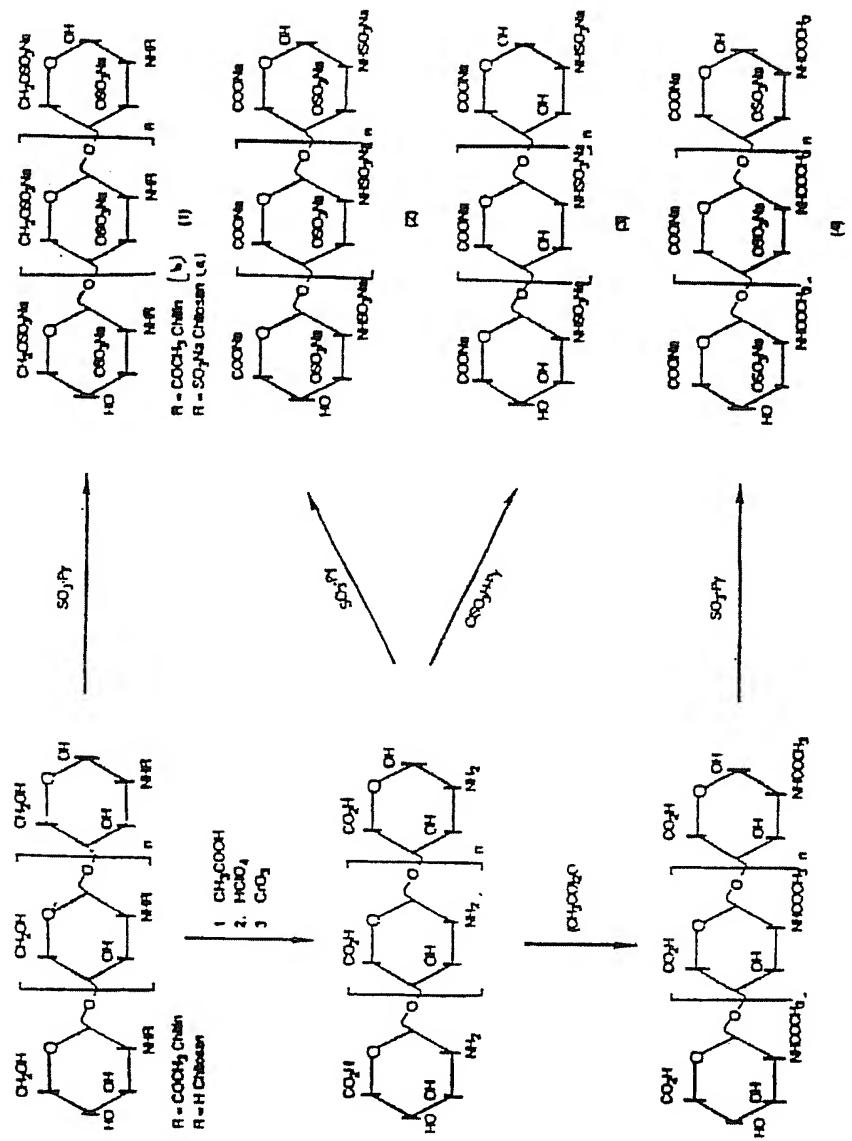
ALLEGRETTI & WITCOFF, LTD.
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FIGURE 2



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FIGURE 3



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FIGURE 4a

CaCO₂ CELL RECOVERY OF CHOLESTEROL FROM THE
C-14 CHOLESTEROL OLEATE

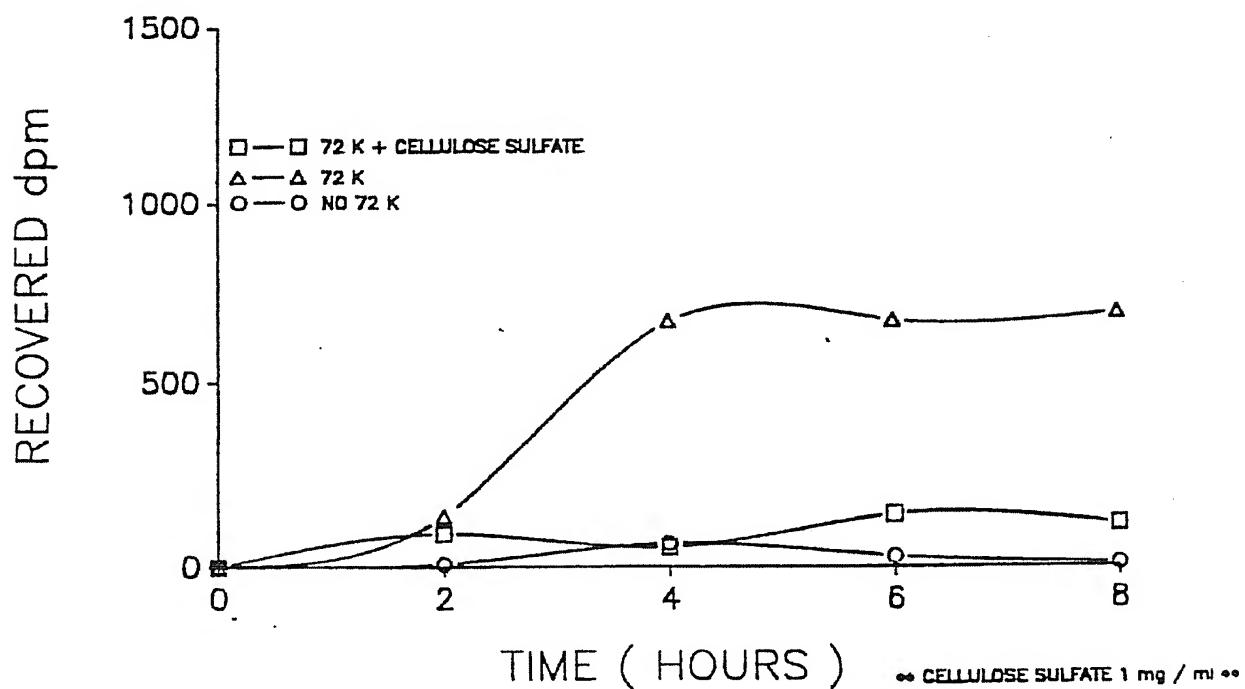
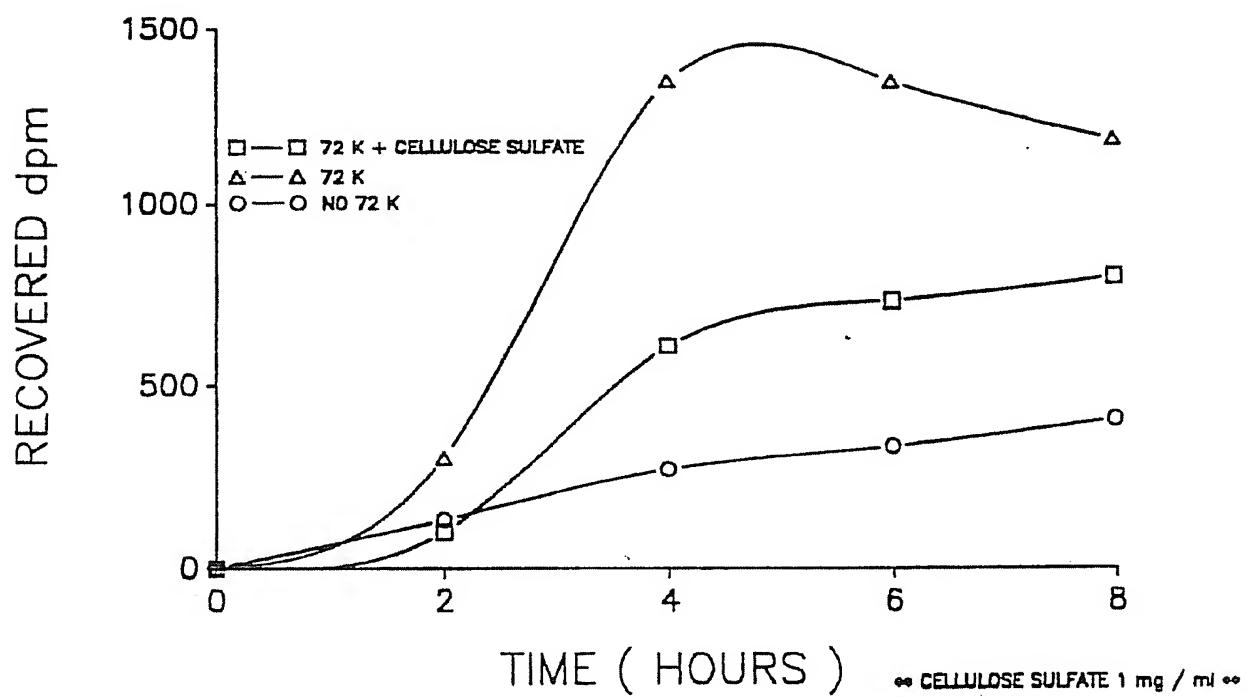


FIGURE 4b

CaCO₂ CELL RECOVERY OF THE TRITIATED CHOLESTEROL

RECOVERY OF CHOLESTEROL FROM FREE H-3 STEROL (A)
 OR FROM C-14 CHOLESTEROL OLEATE (B) IN THE
 CHOLESTEROL OLEATE FED RABBIT

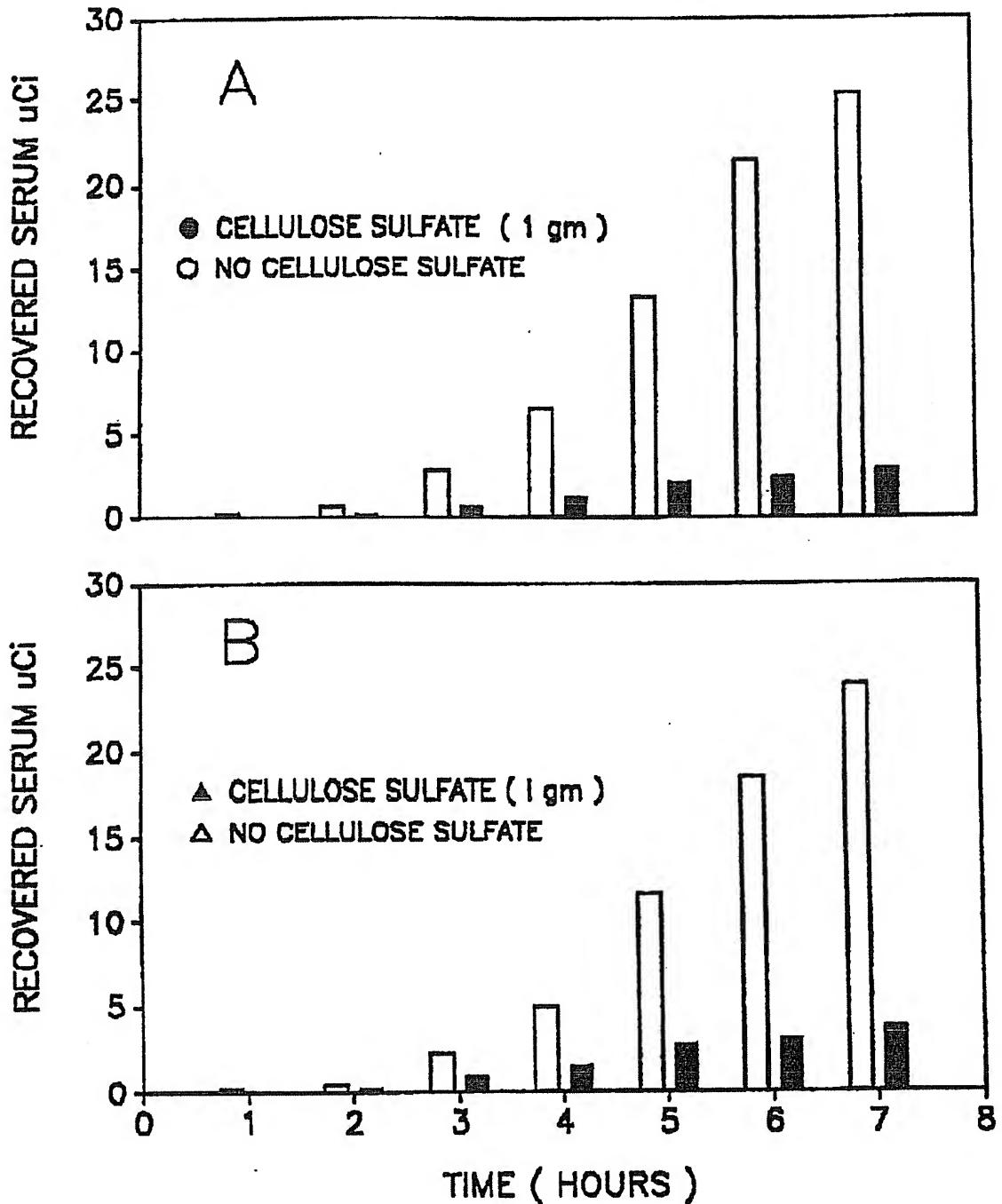


FIGURE 6a

DIETARY EFFECT ON PLASMA CHOLESTEROL

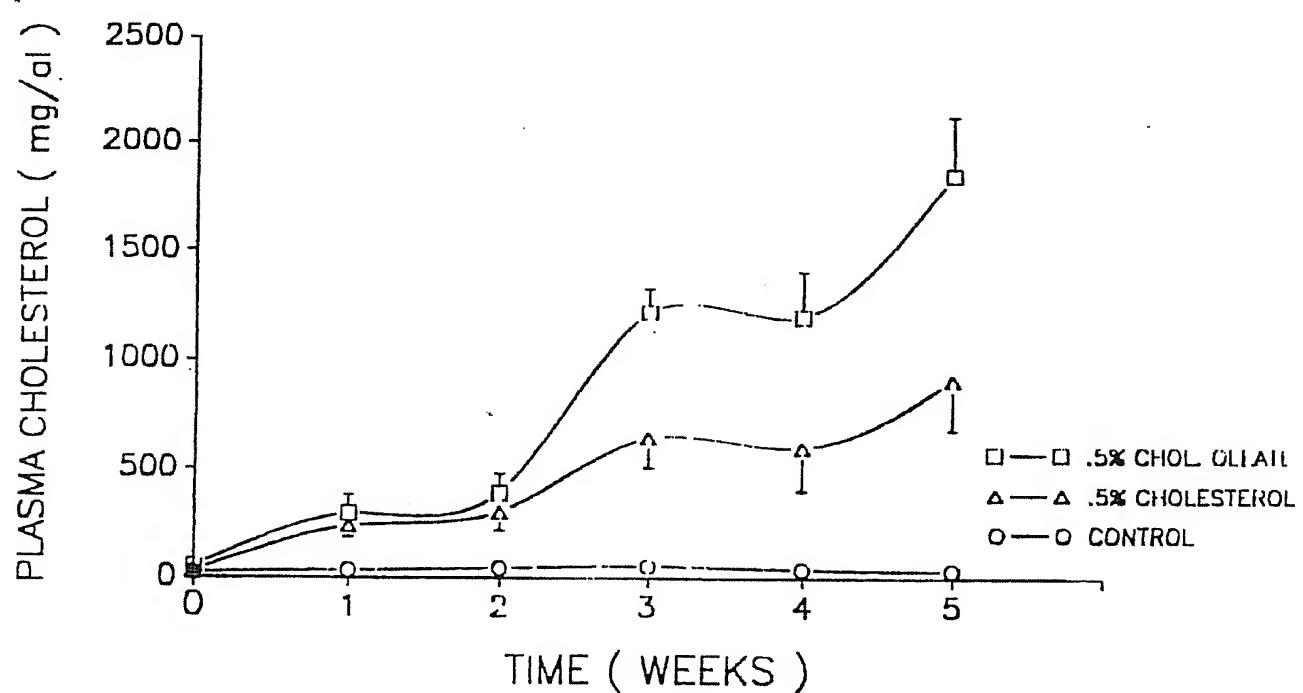


FIGURE 6b

SERUM RECOVERY OF THE C-14 CHOLESTEROL

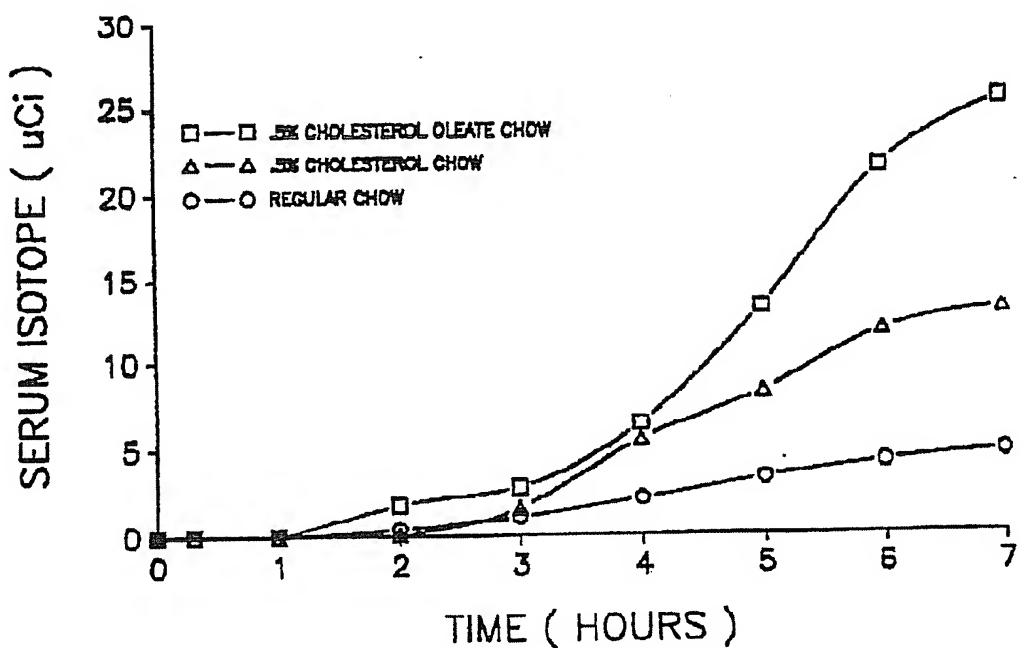
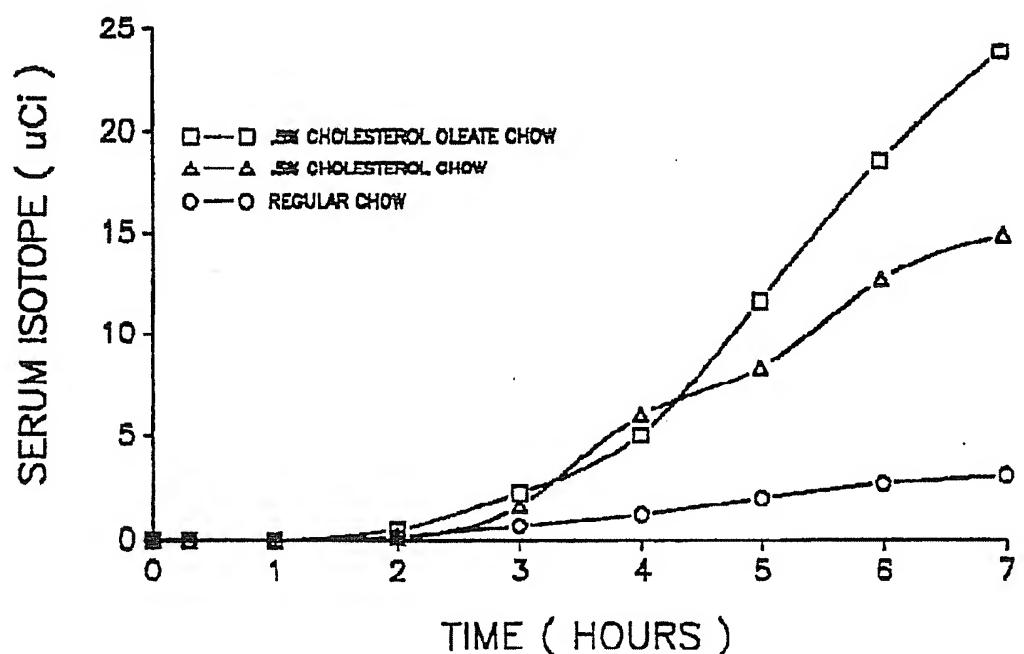


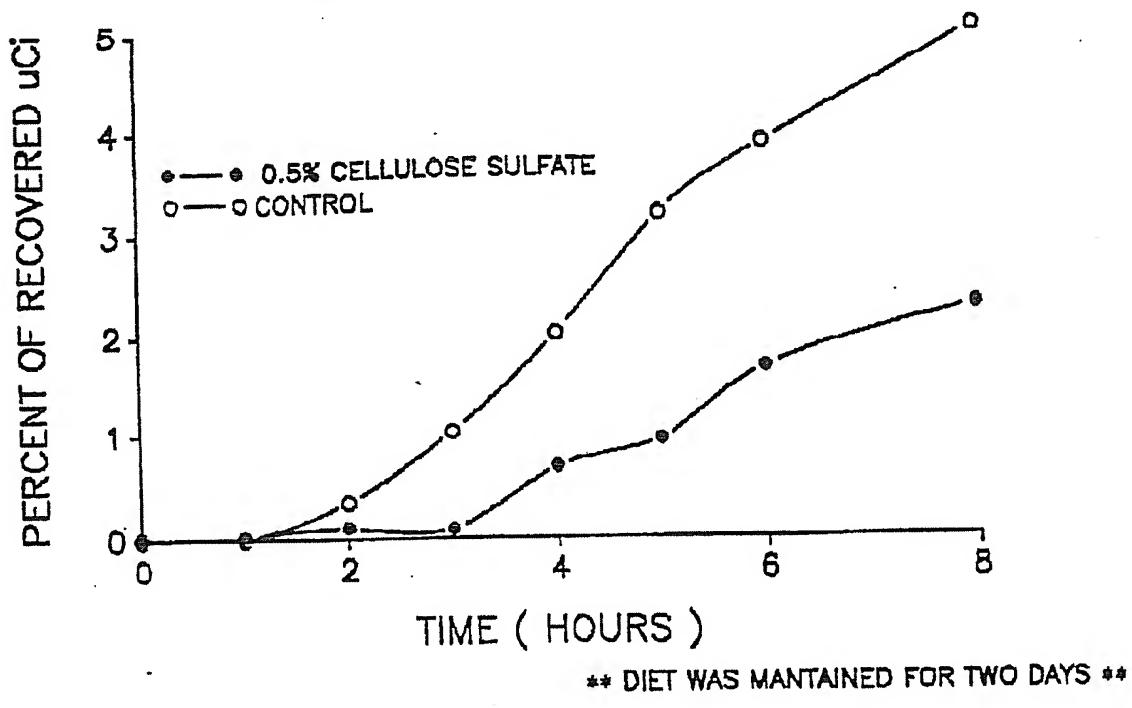
FIGURE 6c

SERUM RECOVERY OF TRITIATED CHOLESTEROL



10 / 10

FIGURE 7

COMPARISON ON THE RECOVERY OF LABELED CHOLESTEROL
FROM THE CHOLESTEROL ESTER IN THE PRESENCE OF
0.5% CELLULOSE SULFATE DIET

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US 90/02079

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) *

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

IPC⁵: A 61 K 31/72, 31/725, A 23 L 1/308, A 61 K 39/395

II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched †

Classification System ‡	Classification Symbols
IPC ⁵	A 61 K, C 08 B, A 23 L
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched §	

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT *

Category *	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
A	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol. 85, 1988 (Washington D.C., US) M.S. Bosner et al.: "Receptor like function of heparin in the binding and uptake of neutral lipids", pages 7438-7442, see abstract cited in the application --	
A	US, A, 3148114 (M. FAHRENBACH) 8 September 1964 see columns 1,2 --	8
A	DE, A, 1492011 (MEITO SANGYO K.K.) 13 February 1969 see page 2 & GB, A, 953626 (cited in the application) --	
A	US, A, 4520017 (D. TUNE) 28 May 1985 see claim 1 --	./.

* Special categories of cited documents: ¹⁰

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
"L" document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"G" document member of the same patent family

IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search
19th July 1990

Date of Mailing of this International Search Report

31.08.90

International Searching Authority

Signature of Authorized Officer

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

M. SOTELO

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)		
Category *	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
A	GB, A, 1053143 (SEARLE) 30 December 1966 see page 2, lines 103-112 --	
A	Carbohydrate Polymers, vol. 2, 1982 (Barking, GB) J. Hoffman et al.: "Studies on the blood-anticoagulant activity of sulphated polysaccharides with different uronic acid content", pages 115-121, see page 117 -----	

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET

V. OBSERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE ¹

This International search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2) (a) for the following reasons:

1. Claim numbers*, because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

*) Claim no. 1-7, 11, 13-18.

See PCT Rule 39.1(iv) : Methods for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy, as well as diagnostic methods.

2. Claim numbers....., because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claim numbers....., because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of PCT Rule 6.4(a).

VI. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING ²

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims of the international application.

2. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:

3. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers:

4. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the International Searching Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.

US 9002079
SA 36429

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on 22/08/90. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US-A- 3148114		None		
DE-A- 1492011	13-02-69	GB-A-	953626	
US-A- 4520017	28-05-85	US-A-	4623539	18-11-86
GB-A- 1053143		BE-A-	645762	28-09-64
		DE-A, C	1468964	20-02-69
		FR-M-	3628	
		FR-A-	1595503	15-06-70